

Application No. 10/717,285
Amdt. dated Oct. 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated Oct. 20, 2005

Customer No. 01933

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]] The frame assembly for at least one object to be displayed, comprising: a frame including a retaining panel and a rear panel, said retaining panel being spaced from at least part of said rear panel to define a space therebetween for receiving an object to be displayed, at least one of said retaining panel and said at least part of said rear panel having a transparent area for viewing said at least one object, said retaining panel having a substantially planar portion and retaining members formed along edges of said retaining panel, and each of said retaining members including an extension portion extending rearward relative to said substantially planar portion and a projecting ridge formed on said extension portion and extending inwardly, part of said rear panel being arranged to fit snugly between said ridges and a rear surface of said retaining panel,~~

of claim 45, wherein said retaining member along a first one of said edges extending extends to an adjacent second one of said edges and said retaining member along said second edge being is spaced from said retaining member along said first edge to

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thereby define an access opening between said retaining members in which an edge of said rear panel is visible and which enables insertion of an object from a lateral direction between said retaining panel and said rear panel to lift said rear panel away from said retaining panel.

2. (Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim [[1]] 45, wherein both said retaining panel and said rear panel have transparent areas for viewing said at least one object to be displayed.

3. (Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim [[1]] 45, wherein said retaining and rear panels are substantially rectangular, and said retaining members extend along all four edges of said retaining panel with each of said retaining members extending only along a respective one of said edges, said retaining member along at least one of said edges of said retaining panel extending only across a portion of a length of said at least one edge of said retaining panel.

4. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 3, wherein said retaining member along said at least one edge is spaced from said retaining members along adjacent edges of said retaining panel to thereby define access openings between said

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retaining member along said at least one edge and said retaining members along said adjacent edges.

5. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 1, wherein said rear panel includes fingernail or fingertip grips alongside said access opening.

6. (Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim [[1]] 45, wherein said ridges are spaced from said rear surface of said retaining panel by a distance substantially equal to or only slightly larger than a thickness of said rear panel such that said rear panel fits between said ridges and said rear surface of said retaining panel with only a nominal clearance for a thickness of the object to be displayed.

7. (Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim [[1]] 45, further comprising a support device arranged to support said frame in a substantially upright position.

8. (Original) The frame assembly of claim 7, wherein said support device comprises a base for supporting said frame, said base defining a channel receivable of an edge portion of said frame, said frame being removably attachable to said base.

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9. (Original) The frame assembly of claim 8, wherein said base comprises a support wall having a substantially planar lower surface adapted to rest on a support surface.

10. (Original) The frame assembly of claim 8, wherein said base comprises a support wall and spaced-apart, parallel retaining walls extending upward from an upper surface of said support wall and defining said channel therebetween.

11. (Original) The frame assembly of claim 10, wherein said base further includes securing means for removably securing said frame to said base.

12. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 11, wherein said securing means comprise a snap-fit rib formed on one of said retaining walls at a position at which it engages a rear edge of said extension portion of one of said retaining members on said edge portion of said frame when said frame is positioned in said channel, said snap-fit rib extending inwardly to face the other of said retaining walls.

13. (Original) The frame assembly of claim 11, wherein said securing means comprise a snap-fit recess formed on an inward surface of one of said retaining walls facing the other of

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said retaining walls at a position at which it receives said extension portion of one of said retaining members on said edge portion of said frame when said frame is positioned in said channel.

14. (Original) The frame assembly of claim 10, wherein a first one of said retaining walls is arranged at a longitudinal edge of said base and angled rearward and a second one of said retaining walls is arranged inward from said first retaining wall and angled rearward.

15. (Original) The frame assembly of claim 8, wherein said base has a substantially semi-cylindrical form and comprises a pair of arcuate walls having substantially flat lower edges coplanar with one another and upper edges situated opposite one another to define said channel therebetween, and side walls connected to lateral edges of said arcuate walls, said side walls having substantially flat lower edges coplanar with said lower edges of said arcuate walls to provide a flat support surface to enable said base to be supported on a planar support, said side walls each including a cut-out arranged to accommodate said edge portion of said frame.

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16. (Original) The frame assembly of claim 15, wherein said cut-outs each include a snap-fit portion arranged to receive said ridge and an adjoining portion of said extension portion of one of said retaining members in said edge portion of said frame when said edge portion of said frame is positioned in said channel to thereby secure said retaining member at least partially between said snap-fit portion and a bottom surface of said cut-out.

17. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 7, wherein said support device comprises at least one prop formed in connection with said rear panel along a respective side of said rear panel, each of said at least one prop being pivotable about a fold or score line in said rear panel between a first position in which said at least one prop is situated between said ridge of one of said retaining members and said rear surface of said retaining panel and a second position apart from said retaining panel to define a support surface at a distance from said retaining panel.

18. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 17, wherein said at least one prop comprises two substantially triangular props.

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19. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 17, wherein said at least one prop is flush with a remaining portion of said rear panel when in said first position.

20. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 17, wherein each of said at least one prop includes a cut-out to enable pivotal movement of said at least one prop from the first position to the second position.

21. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 17, further comprising at least one wall mount integrally formed in said rear panel on a side of said rear panel without one of said at least one prop, each of said at least one wall mount including a projection extending outward from a rear surface of said rear panel.

22. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 45, further comprising at least one wall mount integrally formed in said rear panel on a side of said rear panel, each of said at least one wall mount including a projection extending outward from a rear surface of said rear panel.

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23. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim [[1]] 45, wherein said rear panel has a score or fold line and is flexible about said score or fold line to thereby define first and second interconnected rear panel sections, one on each side of said score or fold line, said retaining panel being spaced from said first rear panel section, at least one of said retaining panel and said first rear panel section having a transparent area, said first rear panel section being arranged to fit snugly between said ridges of said retaining members on said retaining panel and a rear surface of said retaining panel,

said frame further comprising an additional retaining panel spaced from said second rear panel section to define a space therebetween for receiving an object to be displayed, at least one of said additional retaining panel and said second rear panel section having a transparent area for viewing said at least one object, said additional retaining panel having a substantially planar portion and retaining members formed along edges of said additional retaining panel including at least two opposed edges of said additional retaining panel, each of said retaining members including an extension portion extending rearward relative to said substantially planar portion and a projecting ridge formed on said extension portion and extending inwardly, said second rear panel section being arranged to fit snugly

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between said ridges and a rear surface of said additional retaining panel,

said retaining members on said retaining panels being formed along edges of said retaining panels not adjacent said score or fold line.

24. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 23, wherein said retaining member along at least one of said edges of each of said retaining panels extends only across a portion of a length of said at least one edge of said retaining panel and is spaced from said retaining members along any adjacent edges of said retaining panel to thereby define access openings between said retaining member along said at least one edge and said retaining members along said adjacent edges.

25. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 23, wherein said retaining panels are slidable over the respective one of said rear panel sections relative to said score or fold line.

26. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 23, wherein said retaining members are structured and arranged to enable said frame to be supported by said retaining members on a substantially flat support surface.

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27. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 23, wherein said rear panel is substantially rectangular, and said retaining panels are each substantially rectangular.

28. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim [[1]] 45, further comprising:

a pair of said frames, each of said frames including cooperating slots to enable said frames to mate with one another to form an X-shape.

29. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 28, wherein a first one of said frames includes a slot extending upward from a lower edge through both said retaining and rear panels, and a second one of said frames includes a slot extending downward from an upper edge through both said retaining and rear panels.

30. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 28, wherein both said retaining and rear panels have transparent windows for viewing objects to be displayed.

31. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 28, wherein said retaining and rear panels are substantially rectangular and said retaining members extend along all four edges of said retaining panels, said retaining member along at least one of

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said edges of each of said retaining panels extending only across a portion of a length of said at least one edge of said retaining panel and being spaced from said retaining members along adjacent edges of said retaining panel to thereby define access openings between said retaining member along said at least one edge and said retaining members along said adjacent edges.

32. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 28, further comprising a base, and wherein said base comprises a plurality of pairs of opposed retaining walls each defining a channel receivable of an edge portion of a respective one of said frames to support said frame.

33. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 32, wherein said base further comprises a substantially circular lower support, a substantially circular upper support spaced from said lower support to define a cavity therebetween, a ring retaining a plurality of ball bearings movably arranged in the cavity between the upper and lower supports and an inner ring attached to said upper support and movable relative to said lower support such that said upper support and lower support can rotate relative to one another about said ball bearings in said retaining ring.

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34. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 32, wherein said base further includes a lower support and an upper support rotatably connected to said lower support, said upper support defining said retaining walls.

35. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim [[1]] 45, further comprising:

a front panel spaced from said retaining panel to define a respective space therebetween for receiving an object to be displayed, at least one of said front and retaining panels having a transparent area for viewing an object;

each of said retaining members including a front extension portion extending forward relative to said substantially planar portion and a projecting ridge formed on said front extension portion and extending inwardly, said front panel being arranged to fit snugly between said ridges of said front extension portion and a front surface of said retaining panel.

36. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 35, wherein said retaining panel and said front and rear panels are all substantially rectangular, and said retaining members extend along all four edges of said retaining panel, said retaining member along at least one of said edges of said retaining panel

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extending only across a portion of a length of said at least one edge of said retaining panel.

37. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 36, wherein said retaining member along said at least one edge is spaced from said retaining members along adjacent edges of said retaining panel to thereby define access openings between said retaining member along said at least one edge and said retaining members along said adjacent edges.

38. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 37, wherein said front and rear panels each include fingernail or fingertip grips alongside said access openings.

39. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 35, wherein said ridges are spaced from surfaces of said front and rear panels by a distance substantially equal to or only slightly larger than a thickness of said front and rear panels such that said front and rear panels fit between said respective ridges and said retaining panel with only a nominal clearance for a thickness of the an object to be displayed.

40. (Withdrawn) The frame assembly of claim 35, further comprising a support device arranged to support said retaining,

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front and rear panels in an substantially upright position when said front and rear panels are engaged with said retaining panels.

41. (Previously Presented) A frame assembly for at least one object to be displayed, comprising:

a frame including a retaining panel and a rear panel, said retaining panel being spaced from at least part of said rear panel to define a space therebetween for receiving an object to be displayed, both of said retaining panel and said rear panel having transparent areas for viewing said at least one object;

said retaining panel having a substantially planar portion and retaining members formed along edges of said retaining panel; and

each of said retaining members including an extension portion extending rearward relative to said substantially planar portion and a projecting ridge formed on said extension portion and extending inwardly, part of said rear panel being arranged to fit between said ridges and a rear surface of said retaining panel.

42. (Previously Presented) A frame assembly for at least one object to be displayed, comprising:

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a frame including a retaining panel and a rear panel, said retaining panel being spaced from at least part of said rear panel to define a space therebetween for receiving an object to be displayed, at least one of said retaining panel and said rear panel having a transparent area for viewing said at least one object,

said retaining panel having a substantially planar portion and retaining members formed along edges of said retaining panel,

each of said retaining members including an extension portion extending rearward relative to said substantially planar portion and a projecting ridge formed on said extension portion and extending inwardly, part of said rear panel being arranged to fit between said ridges and a rear surface of said retaining panel; and

a base for supporting said frame in a substantially upright position, said base comprising

a support wall and spaced-apart, parallel retaining walls extending upward from an upper surface of said support wall and defining a channel therebetween receivable of an edge portion of said frame, and

securing means for removably securing said frame to said base, said securing means comprising a snap-fit rib formed on an inward surface of one of said retaining walls facing the

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other of said retaining walls at a position at which it engages a rear edge of said extension portion of one of said retaining members on said edge portion of said frame when said frame is positioned in said channel.

43. (Previously Presented) A frame assembly for at least one object to be displayed, comprising:

a frame including a retaining panel and a rear panel, said retaining panel being spaced from at least part of said rear panel to define a space therebetween for receiving an object to be displayed, at least one of said retaining panel and said rear panel having a transparent area for viewing said at least one object,

said retaining panel having a substantially planar portion and retaining members formed along edges of said retaining panel, and

each of said retaining members including an extension portion extending rearward relative to said substantially planar portion and a projecting ridge formed on said extension portion and extending inwardly, part of said rear panel being arranged to fit between said ridges and a rear surface of said retaining panel; and

a base for supporting said frame in a substantially upright position, said base defining a channel receivable of an edge

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portion of said frame, said frame being removably attachable to said base,

said base having a substantially semi-cylindrical form and comprises a pair of arcuate walls having substantially flat lower edges co-planar with one another and upper edges situated opposite one another to define said channel therebetween, and side walls connected to lateral edges of said arcuate walls, said side walls having substantially flat lower edges co-planar with said lower edges of said arcuate walls to provide a flat support surface to enable said base to be supported on a planar support, said side walls each including a cut-out arranged to accommodate said edge portion of said frame,

said cut-outs each including a snap-fit portion arranged to receive said ridge and an adjoining portion of said extension portion of one of said retaining members in said edge portion of said frame when said edge portion of said frame is positioned in said channel to thereby secure said retaining member at least partially between said snap-fit portion and a bottom surface of said cut-out.

44. (Previously Presented) A frame assembly for at least one object to be displayed, comprising:

a frame including a retaining panel and a rear panel, said retaining panel being spaced from at least part of said rear

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panel to define a space therebetween for receiving an object to be displayed, at least one of said retaining panel and said at least part of said rear panel having a transparent area for viewing said at least one object;

said retaining panel having a substantially planar portion and retaining members formed along edges of said retaining panel, first and second ones of said retaining members extending across the entire length of first and second opposed edges of said retaining panel; and

each of said retaining members including an extension portion extending rearward relative to said substantially planar portion and a projecting ridge formed on said extension portion and extending inwardly, said ridges on said first and second retaining members extending across the entire length of said first and second retaining members, part of said rear panel being arranged to fit between said ridges and a rear surface of said retaining panel.

45. (Previously Presented) A frame assembly for at least one object to be displayed, comprising:

a frame including a retaining panel and a rear panel, said retaining panel being spaced from at least part of said rear panel to define a space therebetween for receiving an object to be displayed, at least one of said retaining panel and said at

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least part of said rear panel having a transparent area for viewing said at least one object;

said retaining panel having a substantially planar portion defining a plurality of edges and retaining members arranged on all of said edges, only one of said retaining members being situated on each edge, said retaining members each extending along a major portion of the respective one of said edges; and

each of said retaining members including an extension portion extending rearward relative to said substantially planar portion and a projecting ridge formed on said extension portion and extending inwardly, part of said rear panel being arranged to fit between said ridges and a rear surface of said retaining panel.